(c) what action Government have taken on such complaints ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the list of LPG connections allotted against their quota were not supplied to MPs ; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (e) Priority LPG connections are given on the recommendations of all MPs. Whenever any complaint is received from a Member of Parliament efforts are made to attend to them promptly. In the past few months Members have been informed from time to time of the connections released against their recommendations.

Production of Petrol

314. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has attained the stage of self-sufficiency in the production of petrol ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the country is not importing petrol any more; and

(c) what is the annual requirement of petrol in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Currently no import of petrol (motor spirit) is taking place.

(c) The estimated requirement of petrol (Motor sprit) for the year 1991-92 is 3655 TMT.

Supply of Gas to Gujarat

315. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of Gujarat has requested the Centre to allocate natural gas in sufficient quantities for various projects of power generation, industrial as well as of domestic use ;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto ;

(c) whether Government propose to stop flaring of surplus gas at Bombay High and make best use of gas production capacity of South Basin so that it could be transported to pipavav where high priority users are available ; and

(d) whether Government propose to bring Bombay High gas to Pipavav with a view to saving new investment of Rs. 900 crores in Tapti field development by way of utilising a large amount of associated gas which is being flared ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The entire gas being produced in Gujarat, along with substantial quantities of Off-shore gas, have already been committed to various consumers in Gujarat. Further, allocation would depend on various factors including production and availability of gas.

(c) and (d) While measures are being taken to stop the flaring of natural gas in the western off-shore, there is no proposal to bring this gas to Pipavav.

Development of Oil Fields by Private Parties

316. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to states

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to hand over two oil fields to certain private parties for development;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the decision Government have taken thereon ; and

(c) the conditions laid down for the development of these oil fields ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) One discovered oilfield has been offered as part of a block in the Cauvery off-shore basin in the Fourth Round of Bidding for exploration for oil and natural gas in India. The contract to be signed with the party awarded the block would be on a production-sharing basis. The last date for receipt of bids is 15th April, 1992.

Production of Crude

317. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production of crude oil in the country is likely to fall by 1 million

tonne during the financial year 1992-93 as compared to its production during the year 1991-92 ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to hoost the production of crude in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) Crude oil production is expected to decline in 1992-93 vis-a-vis 1991-92. This is because of a variety of technical and other reasons including rectificatory measures in the Bombay High field to restore the reservoir voidage balance.

(c) ONGC have initiated rectificatory measures in the Bombay High Wells. Moreover, a number of new schemes are being implemented/taken up to augment indigenous production of crude oil.

Price of gas

318. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what was the whole-sale and retail price of different types of industrial gas in Assam and Gujarat separately as on 31-1-1992 ;

(b) whether Government have received any memorandum from the Gujarat Government for doing away the disparity in the fixation of price ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) to (c) Prices charged by ONGC/OIL for natural gas supplied by them were as follows :—

1. Assam—Rs. 1000/1000 cu. mts. with a further discount of Rs. 400/1000 cu. mts. on a case to case basis.

2. Gujarat—Rs. 1550/1000 cu. mts. (at landfall point)
Rs. 2400/1000 cu. mts. (ex-HBJ pipeline)

All aspects of the matter were duly considered while fixing the prices.

Oil Selection Board

319. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Oil Selection Boards in the country alongwith their composition and tenure ;

(b) the names of Oil Selection Boards which have no Chairperson ; and

(c) the number of cases of retail outlets of LPG/Petrol/Diesel decided during the absence of the Chairpersons of the Oil Selection Boards ?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) At present there is no Oil Selection Board.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Letter of intent of LPG/Petrol Pumps

320. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the state-wise number of letters of intent issued for domestic LPG retail outlets, petrol pumps (retail outlets) and diesel outlets during the last two years and the number of those sanctioned from the Minister's quota, year-wise discretionary powers of the Minister ; and

(b) the number of cases decided in each category of physically Handicapped, Ex-Defence personnel, SC/ST and number of those in Gujarat as on 31-1-92?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Requirement of petrol Diesel and kerosene oil

321. DR. ABRAR AHMED :

CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present requirement of petrol, diesel and kerosene in the country;

(b) the extent of requirement met through indigenous supply and through import separately ;

(c) the amount of foreign exchange spent on it ;

(d) what steps Government are taking to curtail the import and minimise the use of such petroleum products ; and